

NID 81

January 21, 1981

POLAND

The National Coordinating Commission of Solidarity yesterday voted to keep the regime under strong pressure on the issue of work-free Saturdays but may also have left some room for compromise.

By voting overwhelmingly to reaffirm its position that all Saturdays are work-free, Solidarity set the stage for another test of wills this Saturday, which the regime has designated as a regular workday. The first such test came on 10 January when some of Poland's major industrial centers were closed down although, according to the government, about 65 percent of workers reported to their factories.

The meeting of the Commission was, as usual, long and contentious, as the 55 leaders of the fledgling union tried to thrash out a common policy toward the regime. Although union leader Walesa probably spoke out for a more conciliatory approach toward the regime than was finally adopted, he will nevertheless carry out the Commission's mandate in upcoming negotiations.

The Solidarity leadership has reportedly developed several proposals on the work-free Saturday issue that Walesa will probably present to Deputy Prime Minister Jagielski during their talks today. These alternatives point up the fact that Solidarity disagrees not so much with the regime's proposals but that it believes the regime has not conducted serious negotiations with the new union on this issue. Regime spokesmen strongly deny this accusation.

It is clear from the Commission meeting yesterday that a large majority of Solidarity's leadership believes that it cannot win concessions from the regime or even conduct negotiations with it without exerting pressure. Their suspicion of regime tactics and intentions will only be heightened by a recent regime media campaign to sow disaffection between Solidarity and the population.

--continued

Approved for Release
Date AUG

199442
157

NID 81

January 21, 1981

If the talks with Jagielski do not show progress, regional chapters of Solidarity will stage short warning strikes tomorrow in Gdansk, Bydgoszcz, and Poznan, in Grudziadz on Friday, and in Warsaw on Saturday.

The regime faces the prospect of more serious and widespread strikes if this issue is not resolved by the next payday, at the end of the month. The regime has declared it will dock the salaries of workers who do not show up for Saturday work, a move Solidarity would strongly resist.

In other business discussed at the Commission session, Solidarity declared 28 January a day of support for peasant farmers and indicated local chapters could call warning strikes if they wished. It also called on the regime to redraft its economic reform program by 10 February, calling the original version "unsatisfactory and bureaucratic."

Polish Defense Spending

Despite recent public statements by a Polish official implying the contrary, we estimate that spending for defense and police forces will increase by some 6.5 percent this year compared to 1980. Because the inflation rate might well exceed the rate of growth in expenditures, real defense spending might not increase at all.

The Soviets probably would have preferred a larger increase, but given the political and military circumstances in Poland today, the Kremlin has probably grudgingly accepted this spending level.